



OESNEWS

Governor's Office of Emergency Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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First Lady Maria Shriver Joins Hundreds of Californians At “Day of Preparedness”

Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown recognizes 30th Anniversary of California Conservation Corps

SACRAMENTO (September 15, 2006) – First Lady Maria Shriver and Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown joined hundreds of school children, parents, volunteers and first responders on the south steps of the California State Capitol Thursday to encourage all Californians to be disaster prepared at California's second annual “Day of Preparedness,” hosted by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES).

“Today is about being educated and empowered to know what we can do in the event of an emergency,” said Shriver. “It's important that we talk to our families, our neighbors, grandparents or caregivers about how we can help each other when a disaster strikes. And today, we are learning those very essential skills.”

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger proclaimed Thursday as California's “Day of Preparedness” as part of National Preparedness Month. At the State Capitol, local school children used their “Preparedness Passports” to travel through a maze of interactive disaster preparedness exhibits and learned how to properly fill sand bags, conduct first aid, clear vegetation around their homes, learn what to do during an earthquake and much more.

“In the first several days after an emergency, the focus of first responders will be on meeting the needs of those with life-threatening injuries and illnesses,” said OES Director Henry Renteria. “It's imperative that Californians prepare themselves and their families to be their own ‘first responders’ at home, work and school. I urge Californians to mark California's Day of Preparedness today by completing at least one of the 10 actions recommended in our ‘10 ways YOU can be Disaster Prepared’ brochure.”

1. Identify your disaster risk where you live and work
2. Create a family disaster plan
3. Practice your disaster plan
4. Build a disaster supply kit for your home, business and vehicle
5. Prepare your children
6. Remember those with special needs
7. Learn CPR and first aid
8. Eliminate hazards in your home and workplace
9. Understand post 9/11 risks
10. Becoming involved in your community by volunteering and bearing responsibility

A highlight of the event included recognition of the 30th anniversary of the California Conservation Corps (CCC) Mayor Brown. The CCC was established in 1976 by Mayor Brown during this service as the 34th Governor of the State of California, which he modeled after the Peace Corps and Jobs Corps.

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“This is a group of young men and women that are protecting the state, getting prepared, saving the environment and serving a larger purpose of making our whole community better,” said Brown.

Today, the CCC continues to play an important role in responding to disasters. For additional information about the CCC, visit www.ccc.ca.gov.

More than two dozen local, state and federal agencies, as well as volunteer and private-sector organizations, joined forces at the State Capitol to teach attendees how to prepare for emergencies and disasters of all kinds, including earthquakes, fire, flooding, severe heat and influenza.

Sacramento California Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers were on site to demonstrate first aid, fire safety and light search and rescue to attendees. CERT members are “incredibly important,” said Pam Perdue, a program analyst with the California Service Corps, which coordinates the CERT, Medical Reserve Corps and Fire Corps programs in California. “They are an additional resource that our first responders will need as backup.”

Californians wanting more information on how to “Get Ready” can visit the OES Web site at www.oes.ca.gov, or contact the city or county office of emergency services or a local chapter of the American Red Cross.

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